



Steadfast in Persecution
Studies in 1 Thessalonians

Watch and Be Sober
1 Thessalonians 5
Lesson 5

Introduction

Paul closes his letter by exhorting the believers there to live in the light that they already know. The Day of the Lord will come when no one expects it. Though it will overtake the unsaved world unexpectedly, it will not overtake the Christian: they understand the signs of the times and are watching and waiting expectantly. The fact that Christ could come at any moment should motivate believers to watch and be sober in their daily lives.

Paul's prayer for this new church is that they would be sanctified in every aspect of their lives, spirit, soul and body so that they will be *blameless* at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ's return. Blameless doesn't mean sinless, but free from the causes of reproach or regret. So, let us **watch and be sober** in the days ahead!

Treasures of the Heart

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober

1 Thessalonians 5:6

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?



Look - What do you see?

Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 _____

Live - How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. **Summarize your findings in your own words.**

Looking for Jesus. . .

Eagerly looking for Christ's return is an evidence of salvation, a motivation for soul winning and an encouragement for holy living. Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians ends with a reference to the return of Christ, and that truth is applied to daily living. See if you can find it and **state these truths in your own words.**

State the reference to Christ's return.

How is it applied to daily living?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Romans 13:12-14

